

What is claimed is:

1. An image printing system comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a medium having a
prepay function on which image data is recorded;

an instructing unit by which the user places an order
for printing with regard to the images recorded on the
medium;

a printer that prints the images recorded on the
medium; and

a controller that reads the image data recorded on the
medium, causes the printer to perform printing in response
to the order via the instructing unit, receives the printing
fee, and updates the prepaid balance in the prepayment
information of the medium after the printing instruction is
issued from the instructing unit.

2. An image printing system according to claim 1, wherein
said controller accepts a printing instruction after the
image data is read from the medium.

3. A medium using which data recording and reading may be
performed by a computer and which has a prepay function,
wherein said medium comprising:

a first data storage area which stores money management
information including the prepaid balance; and

a second data storage area which stores image data.

4. A medium according to claim 3, wherein said first data

storage area is configured such that writing via the device by which the user records images is disabled.

5. A medium according to claim 3, wherein said first data storage area records the encoded money management information.

6. A digital camera comprising:

an optical device that captures images of the object;
a mounting mechanism that mounts a medium having a
prepay function;

an operating means by which the user instructs the
start of an image capture operation via the optical device;
and

a controller that records the data regarding the image
captured by the optical device on the medium based on the
operation via the operating means.

7. A digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said
controller records the data in the medium without affecting
the information regarding the prepay function.

8. A digital camera according to claim 6, wherein the
medium comprises a first area in which money management
information including the prepaid balance is recorded and a
second area in which image data is recorded, and said
controller records the image data in the second area of the
medium.

9. A digital camera according to claim 6, further

comprising a display in which data is displayed, and the controller accesses the medium to display on the display the information regarding the prepay function.

10. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a medium on which image data is recorded and which has a prepay function;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the medium;

a printer that prints the data; and

a controller that updates the prepaid balance in the storage medium and causes the printer to print a receipt for the printing order, which includes the prepaid balance, in response to the printing order issued via the instructing means.

11. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and which has a prepay function, and that includes a removal preventing means that prevents the removal of the mounted storage medium;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium; and

a controller that reads the image data recorded on the storage medium, calculates the fee for the printing ordered via the instructing means, updates the prepaid balance and

prevents the removal of the storage medium by operating the removal preventing means of the mounting mechanism until the updating of the prepaid balance is completed.

12. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and that has a prepay function;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium; and

a controller that inputs the image data recorded on the storage medium, calculates the fee for the printing ordered via the instructing means, updates the prepaid balance and nullifies the printing order if the storage medium is removed from the mounting mechanism before the prepaid balance is updated.

13. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and that has a prepay function;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium;

a money receiving means that receives money; and

a controller that reads the image data recorded on the storage medium, processes the receipt of money via the money receiving means, calculates the fee for the printing ordered

via the instructing means, updates the prepaid balance and settles the printing fee by combining together the prepaid balance in the storage medium and the cash added using the money receiving means.

14. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and that has a prepay function;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium;

a money receiving means that receives money; and

a controller that inputs the image data recorded on the storage medium, processes the receipt of money via the money receiving means, calculates the fee for the printing ordered via the instructing means, updates the prepaid balance and updates the prepaid balance of the storage medium by combining together the prepaid balance in the storage medium and the cash added using the money receiving means.

15. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and that has a prepay function;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium; and

a control means that reads the image data recorded on

the storage medium, calculates the fee for the printing ordered via the instructing means, updates the prepaid balance and accesses the prepayment information in the storage medium and outputs the information using a display means or a printing means.

16. An image handling device comprising:

a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and that has a prepay function;

an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium; and

a control means that reads the image data recorded on the storage medium, calculates the fee for the printing ordered via the instructing means, updates the prepaid balance and calculates the printing fee in accordance with the printing history.

17. A printing fee recording method in an image output system comprising a mounting mechanism that mounts a storage medium on which image data is recorded and that has a prepay function, an instructing means by which the user places an order for printing regarding the images recorded on the storage medium, and a printing means that prints the images recorded on the storage medium, the method comprising the steps of:

reading the image data from the storage medium; and

recording the printing history on the storage medium,
calculating a fee for the ordered printing based on the
printing history, and recording the prepaid balance on the
storage medium is updated according to the user orders
printing of the images recorded on the storage medium.

18. The computer-readable storage medium which stores a
program comprising the step of:

reading image data from the storage medium in which the
image data is recorded and which has a prepay function;

receiving a printing order from the user for the images
recorded on the storage medium;

printing the images by the printing means in accordance
with the printing order; and

updating the prepaid balance in the prepayment
information in the storage medium after the printing order
is executed.